

Committee on the Budget . Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Jim Nussle, Chairman

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

15 November 2004

Week of 15 November 2004

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) Recognizing the 130th Anniversary of the Creation of Lifesaving Stations on the Great Lakes, Which Became Part of the United States Life-Saving Service (H. Res.750). This resolution has no budget implications.



2) Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004. (H. R. 4516). This bill directs the Secretary of Energy to implement research and development to advance high-end computing systems, and makes the Department of Energy one of three Federal agencies jointly establishing the Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee. It authorizes appropriations for fiscal years 2005 through 2007. The measure would cost \$165 million over the 2005-09 period, subject to appropriations. The bill would have no effect on direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or revenue.

- 3) Supporting the Goals and Ideals of the World Year of Physics (S.Con.Res. 121). This resolution expresses support for the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics, as designated by the General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. This resolution has no budget implications.
- 4) Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge During World War II (H. J.Res.110). This resolution has no budget implications.



- 5) Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2004 (S. 2484). This bill changes the pay provisions for physicians and dentists employed by the Veterans Health Administration, and authorizes alternate work schedules for registered nurses. Total compensation is capped at the amount of annual compensation received by the President (excluding expenses). At the time of publication, a final cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is expected to cost \$186 million in 2006 and \$763 million over the 2006-09 period, subject to appropriations. Enacting the bill is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.
- 6) Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 2004 (S.2486).

This bill makes changes to several veterans programs including education, housing, employment, medical, and other benefits. It increases the voluntary contribution amount that active duty members make for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill [MGIB], and requires the collection of required contributions from Reservists before they use the MGIB. In addition, the bill increases the maximum

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

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housing loan guarantee amount, and makes certain other changes in housing provisions. At the time of publication, a final cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is expected to reduce direct spending by \$20 million over the 2005-09 period, but increase direct spending by \$6 million over the 2005-14 period.

7) Veterans Health Programs Improvement Act of 2004 (H.R. 3936).

This bill makes changes to a number of veterans programs, including assistance to homeless veterans, long-term and other medical care, medical facilities management and administration, and personnel administration. The bill also provides the authority for the acquisition and transfer of real property for use by homeless veterans, and prohibits the collection of copayments for hospice care. At the time of publication, a cost estimate was not available. It is uncertain whether or not enacting this bill will increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

- 8) To Improve Access to Physicians in Medically Underserved Areas (S. 2302). This bill reauthorizes for 5 years the "Conrad State 30" program, which annually allows each State to request up to 30 waivers of the home residency requirement applicable to certain J-1 foreign medical graduates. The waivers apply to those graduates who perform medical services in health professional shortage areas. It also allows State departments of public health to designate health professional shortage areas for purposes of this (currently designated only by the Secretary of Health and Human Services), and exempts Conrad State 30 physicians from the numerical limitation on H-1B visas. Enacting this bill could have a negligible effect of direct spending. This is because the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services would collect fees to provide work permits for these physicians. These fees are credited against direct spending and the agency is authorized to spend them without further appropriation.
- 9) Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004 (H.R.1417). This bill amends Federal copyright law and replaces the occasional three-member copyright arbitration royalty panels with three full-time Copyright Royalty Judges, appointed by the Librarian of Congress. It sets forth requirements regarding the proceedings of Copyright Royalty Judges, and details the responsibilities and eligibility criteria for the judges. Enacting this bill will cost \$1 million in 2005 and \$5 million over the 2005-09 period, subject to appropriations. It would not affect direct spending.
- 10) Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (H.Res. 641). The resolution has no budget implications.
- 11) A Bill to Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the "Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building" and to Authorize the Installation of a Plaque at Such Site (S. 2640). The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.
- 12) A Bill to Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Post Office" (S. 2214). The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.
- 13) A Bill to Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 45, in Albany, New York, as the "Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office" (S. 2693).

The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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14) Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (H.R. 4593). This bill makes several changes to programs to manage Federal land in Nevada, including: 1) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to sell about 100,000 acres of land in Lincoln County and spend the proceeds, without further appropriation, for resource management and administrative expenses; and 2) designating roughly 720,000 acres of land as wilderness and releasing about 245,000 acres of other land from wilderness study status. Selling the land in Lincoln County will increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) by a total of \$9 million over the 2005-14 period, but the Interior Department is expected to spend those proceeds in the year of collection, resulting in no net change in direct spending. Also, by increasing the amount of land designated as wilderness, H.R. 4593 will increase Federal spending for land management by \$1 million annually, subject to appropriations. The bill does not affect revenue.

15) Arizona Water Settlements Act (S. 437).



The bill approves and ratifies the Gila River

Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act, amends the Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act of 1982, and affirms the right of the San Carlos Apache Tribe to make future claims for water rights. The bill forgives debt owed to the Federal Government from water contractors in Arizona in exchange for relinquishing the contractors' entitlements to water from the Central Arizona Project, resulting in a loss of offsetting receipts – which results in a net increase in direct spending – of about \$2 million annually, beginning in 2005, but this is within the allocation to the Resources Committee. It also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to pay for certain benefits and water projects from funds deposited into the Lower Colorado River Basin Development [LCRBD] Fund without further appropriation, starting in 2010. In addition, the bill establishes an account within the LCRBD Fund to pay obligations resulting from future Indian water settlements approved by the Congress. The bill will permanently increase direct spending, and will total about \$425 million over the 2010-14 period.

16) Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of 2003 (S. 1466).



The bill makes numerous changes intended to facilitate the

transfer of land between the Federal Government (through the Interior Department) and the State of Alaska, and to procedures governing the allotment of land to regional, village, and native corporations. This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

17) A Bill to Authorize Additional Appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 (S. 1727).



This bill increases the authorization level for spending under the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act. The increase does not affect fiscal years 2005 and 2006, and totals \$185 million in budget authority over 2007-09, subject to appropriations. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

18) Kate Mullany National Historic Site Act (S. 1241).



This bill establishes the Kate Mullany National Historic

Site in New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System. The bill authorizes the National Park Service to provide the center with technical and financial assistance for planning, development, interpretation, and preservation of the site, including up to \$500,000 for acquiring the adjacent half of the Kate Mullany house, subject to appropriations. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

19) To Amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to Increase the Federal Share of the Costs of the San Gabriel Basin Demonstration Project (H.R. 1284).



This bill increases, by \$6.5 million, the amount authorized for the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project in California, subject to appropriations. The project is intended to improve the quality and storage capacity of groundwater in the San Gabriel Basin. The increase in the authorized funding level allows the Bureau of Reclamation to assist in the expansion of the project to include more facilities. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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- 20) **To Authorize an Exchange of Land at Fort Frederica National Monument** (H.R. 1113). The bill authorizes the National Park Service to exchange 6 acres of land within the boundary of the Fort Frederica National Monument in Georgia for 8.7 acres of nearby property owned by the Christ Church. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.
- 21) Three Affiliated Tribes Health Facility Compensation Act (S. 1146). The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$20 million for the construction of a new hospital on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. It also authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary for other expenses, such as operating costs, associated with the new facility. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

Please Note: It is possible that an omnibus appropriations measure for fiscal year 2005 will be considered this week, but no formal information is available at this time.

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